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BOROUGH OF DUNSTABLE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1972

Medical Officer of Health

D.S. Josephs M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen
and Councillors of the Borough of Dunstable

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health of the District during 1972.

The vital statistics in this report compare satisfactorily with those returned for Dunstable in recent years and with the 1972 figures for other parts of the County and Country.

Yet again I must refer to the toll of avoidable ill health and premature death resulting from the "Smoking Diseases". During early 1973 an Exhibition was mounted in the District and later a pilot Five-Day Stop Smoking Clinic was held in Dunstable. Whilst the long term results of this venture are not yet available, questionaires returned by the participants after six weeks indicated a very satisfactory result and another clinic is to be held early in 1974.

Vital statistics, relating mainly to mortality, provide only a partial index of the physical health and well-being of the community and give hardly any information about mental health. They reflect the advances which have been made in public health during the last thirty years in, for example, the control of infectious disease and atmospheric pollution. They reveal little relevant to current public health problems, such as traffic pollution, population control and poor housing, which will require combined action by Central Government and the new Local Government and Health Authorities. Perhaps it is in the field of housing that Local Government can do most to improve a fundamental requirement for civilised and healthy family life.

I must express my appreciation to Members of the Council for the consideration they have shown to me and to the Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff for their support.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D.S. JOSEPHS
Medical Officer of Health

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STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	2,092
Population:	
Census for 1961	25,645
Registrar General's estimate of home population mid-year 1972	32,040
Number of Inhabited Houses	10,363
Rateable Value (1st April 1973)	£6,797,522
Sum Represented by a new Penny Rate	£66,200

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	280	273	553
Illegitimate	20	13	33
Totals	300	286	586

Crude Birth Rate 18.3 per 1,000 home population
Adjusted Birth Rate 16.1 "
(The comparability factor for the District being .88)

As compared with:
Adjusted Rate for Bedfordshire 16.2 per 1,000 home population
Rate for England and Wales 14.8 "

Still Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	2	-	2

Still Birth Rate 3.0 per 1,000 total (live and Still births)

As compared with:
Rate for Bedfordshire 7.9 "
Rate for England and Wales 12.0 "

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
Deaths in the District	39	63	102
Transferred into the District	69	66	135
Transferred from the District	4	3	7
Totals	104	126	230

Crude Death Rate 7.2 per 1,000 home population
Adjusted Death Rate 10.1 "
(The comparability factor for the District being 1.40)

As compared with:
Adjusted Rate for Bedfordshire 10.3 per 1,000 home population
Rate for England and Wales 12.1 "

Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	1	6
Illegitimate	-	1	1
Totals	5	2	7

Infant Mortality Rate 12.0 per 1,000 related live births

As Compared with:

Rate for Bedfordshire	13.3	"
Rate for England and Wales	17.0	"

Deaths Connected with Childbirth

Maternal Mortality Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1972

Cause of Death	Total all ages		Under 4 weeks		4 weeks & under 1 year		Age in Years 1-4		5-14		15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75 & Over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	3	1	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	15	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	7	-	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Other malignant neoplasms	4	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	6	2	3
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes mellitus	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Multiple sclerosis	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other diseases of nervous system	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hypertensive disease	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	1
Ischaemic heart disease	22	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	4	1	8	10	7	15
Other forms of heart disease	6	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	4	7
Cerebrovascular disease	9	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	6	5	3	14
Other diseases of circulatory system	3	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	2	1	4
Influenza	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	9	15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	6	10
Bronchitis and emphysema	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	-	2	2
Asthma	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other diseases of respiratory syst.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Peptic ulcer	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

Cont .....

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1972

Cause of Death	Total all ages		Under 4 weeks		4 weeks & under 1 yr.		Age in years 1-4		5-14		15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75 & over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Diseases of musculo-skeletal syst.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Congenital anomalies	2	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birth Injury, difficult labour	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
All other accidents	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Suicide and self-inflicted inj.	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Total all causes	104	126	4	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	1	3	3	5	7	18	11	37	34	36	64

(a) Notifications by Age Group

Disease	0 - 4	5 - 14	15 and over	Age unknown	Total
Measles	40	25	1	2	68
Scarlet fever	1	3	2	-	6
Whooping cough	1	1	-	-	2
Food poisoning	1	-	-	-	1
Infective jaundice	-	-	1	-	1

(b) Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis in the Age Groups

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 35 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 65 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Number on Register at end of Year

	Male	Female
Pulmonary	24	10
Non-Pulmonary	1	1

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

A mobile x-ray unit, provided by the Mass Radiography Service of the Regional Hospital Board, continues to visit the car park beside the Civic Hall on Wednesday each week from 2.45 p.m. to 3.15 p.m. During this period patients sent by general practitioners can be x-rayed.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA

The Bedfordshire County Council, through its Health Committee, provides the following services: health centres, care of mothers and young children, health visiting, home nursing, domiciliary midwifery, ambulance, immunisation against infectious diseases ect.

The Bedfordshire and Luton Executive Council provides the family practitioner services.

The North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board provides consultant and hospital services.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

No cases of diphtheria or poliomyelitis were notified during the year. Immunisation against these diseases and whooping cough and tetanus is normally carried out during the first year of life. Protection is also offered against measles and tuberculosis and rubella vaccination is offered to girls at the age of eleven years.

Occasional cases of dysentery and food poisoning occur. However, there were no serious outbreaks in the District during the year.

CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS

Cases requiring attention are normally school children with head lice infestations and these are dealt with by the Health Visitors as a matter of routine.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 - Section 47

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act provides for the removal to hospital or Part III accommodation on a Court Order, of sick or old people who are unable to look after themselves. It was not found necessary to use this legislation for the compulsory removal of any person during the year.